

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-314

July 16, 2004

Operations and Services

MARINE AND COASTAL WEATHER SERVICE PROGRAM, NWSPD 10-3

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENTS

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSI 10-314, dated July 8, 2003. This directive removes mention of rip current information, and related details to high surf advisory and surf zone forecast products. Please refer to NWSI 10-310, Coastal Marine Forecast Services; and NWSI 10-320, Coastal/Lakeshore Flood Services for details regarding rip currents, high surf advisory and surf zone forecast information. This directive also includes updated examples in the Appendix.

Signed

July 2, 2004

Gregory A. Mandt
Director, Office of Climate,
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Date

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENTS

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1. Introduction. This procedural instruction provides detailed information on a product Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) issue concerning ongoing or imminent marine weather hazards. MWSs also provide the public with follow-up information or to cancel all or part of a Special Marine Warning (SMW).

2. Marine Weather Statement (product category MWS).

2.1 Mission Connection. Marine Weather Statements provide the public with detailed marine weather information describing non-severe, but potentially hazardous conditions; and to provide information for a variety of conditions not covered by warnings or routine forecasts.

2.2 Issuance Guidelines.

2.2.1 Creation Software. WFOs should use Watch/Warning/Advisory software (WWA) or other text editors to issue Marine Weather Statements.

2.2.2 Issuance Criteria. WFOs will issue a Marine Weather Statement to provide notice a Special Marine Warning has expired, to cancel all or portions of a warning, or to provide updates to the warning.

WFOs should issue Marine Weather Statements to discuss ongoing hazards affecting, or expected to affect, the marine community. Each NWS office having Great Lakes or coastal waters forecast responsibility (Reference NWSI 10-302) will issue MWSs as necessary. Do not issue MWSs for the offshore or high seas areas.

Non-Severe Short-term Events. Forecasters may issue MWSs to describe short duration, non-severe, but potentially hazardous conditions, in which sustained winds or gusts to 33 knots are expected for 2 hours or less.

Non-Severe Long-term Events. Forecasters may issue MWSs to provide details on significant conditions prevailing for longer than 2 hours that affect marine operations. For example: low-water levels, dense fog, hazardous materials spills, trends for increasing and/or decreasing wind and wave/seas conditions, volcanic ash, or to advise for the potential development of warning conditions.

Forecasters may issue MWSs during coastal or lakeshore flood events to provide information specifically relating to mariners. WFOs may also issue MWSs to alert mariners of very significant weather features expected in the 3 to 5 day forecast period.

Ice Changes. WFOs should issue MWSs informing mariners of non-forecast weather events likely to impact the formation or destruction of ice.

2.2.3 Issuance Time. Marine Weather Statements are non-scheduled, event-driven products. WFOs should issue Marine Weather Statements at least every 1 to 3 hours when marine weather conditions consistent with the issuance criteria are present or forecast.

2.2.4 Valid Time. Marine Weather Statements are valid from the time of issuance until the expiration time.

2.2.5 Universal Geographic Code (UGC). Marine Weather Statements will contain marine-based, areal UGC codes.

2.2.6 Product Expiration Time. The product expiration time is not more than 15 minutes after the warning or expiration time of the SMW; and not more than 12 hours after the time of issuance for other events described in the issuance criteria section.

2.3 Technical Description. Marine Weather Statements will follow the format and content described in this section.

2.3.1 Mass News Disseminator Broadcast Line. None.

2.3.2 Mass News Disseminator Header. The Marine Weather Statement MND Header is "MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT".

2.3.3 Content. WFOs will issue MWSs to cancel all or portions of a Special Marine Warning. WFOs should issue MWSs for ongoing or imminent weather conditions less than warning criteria. WFOs should issue MWS's to report funnel clouds either forecast by the WFO or reported to the WFO by external sources. WFOs should use headlines to highlight important information related to the issuance of the MWS. MWSs will follow the format described in section 2.3.4.

2.3.4 Format. The format of the MWS can be seen in Figure 1. This product is available in industry standard encoding and languages, and may include, but not limited to, American Standard Code for Information Interchange, Extensible Markup Language, Wireless Markup Language and HyperText Markup Language.

<p>(WMO HEADER)(ISSUANCE DATE TIME) (AWIPS ID) (AREAL UGC CODE[S])-(EXPIRATION TIME)-</p> <p>MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (CITY)(STATE) (VALID TIME) AM/PM (LOCAL TIME ZONE) (DAY) (DATE)</p> <p>...HEADLINE (If Needed)...</p> <p>NARRATIVE TEXT.</p> <p>\$\$</p> <p>FORECASTER NAME (Optional)</p>

Figure 1. Marine Weather Statement (MWS) Format

2.4 Updates, Amendments and Corrections. MWSs should be updated as needed. WFOs will correct MWSs for format and grammatical errors.

APPENDIX A - Examples of Marine Weather Statements

FZUS71 KAKQ 162139
MWSAKQ
ANZ630-162245-

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WAKEFIELD VA
538 PM EDT SUN MAY 16 2004

...STRONG THUNDERSTORMS APPROACHING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERS...

AT 533 PM EDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED THUNDERSTORMS...PRODUCING DANGEROUS LIGHTNING AND GUSTY WINDS 8 MILES SOUTH OF SMITH POINT...MOVING NORTHEAST AT 15 MPH.

MARINERS CAN EXPECT GUSTY WINDS OF UP TO 30 KNOTS...LOCALLY HIGHER WAVES...AND FREQUENT LIGHTNING STRIKES. BOATERS SHOULD SEEK SAFE HARBOR IMMEDIATELY UNTIL THIS STORM PASSES.

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FZUS74 KBRO 012044
MWSBRO
GMZ130-150-155-170-175-012345-

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX
345 PM CDT SAT MAY 1 2004

...A STRONG COLD FRONT HAS PASSED SOUTH OF THE LOWER TEXAS COASTAL WATERS...

A LATE SEASON COLD FRONT HAS JUST MOVED THROUGH THE LOWER TEXAS COASTAL WATERS. THE STRONGEST THUNDERSTORMS ARE NOW IN THE OPEN GULF TO THE EAST OF THE OFFSHORE WATERS. MARINERS OVER THE LAGUNA MADRE AND THE COASTAL WATERS OF DEEP SOUTH TEXAS SHOULD STILL EXPECT NUMEROUS SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS TO CONTINUE DURING THE NEXT FEW HOURS...BUT DRIER WEATHER IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THIS EVENING. OCCASIONAL LIGHTNING AND HEAVY RAINFALL RESTRICTING VISIBILITY TO LESS THAN A MILE WILL REMAIN POSSIBLE.

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WINDS BEHIND THE FRONT ARE EXPECTED TO PERSIST FROM THE NORTH AT 20 TO 30 KNOTS...WITH HIGHER GUSTS POSSIBLE. AT 200 PM...SEAS HAD RISEN TO 7 FEET AT THE BUOY 35 MILES EAST OF PORT MANSFIELD AND WERE STILL RISING. SMALL CRAFT ADVISORIES FOR WINDS AND SEAS ARE LIKELY THROUGH SUNDAY.

STAY TUNED TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR THE LATEST WEATHER INFORMATION FROM YOUR NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE IN BROWNSVILLE.

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FZUS73 KLOT 180626
MWSCHI
LMZ741>745-766-180700-

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHICAGO IL
124 AM CDT TUE MAY 18 2004

MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT OUT TO MID LAKE MICHIGAN INCLUDING THE NEARSHORE WATERS FROM...

THE SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FROM WILMETTE HARBOR TO NORTHERLY ISLAND IL WILL BE ALLOWED TO EXPIRE AT 130 AM.

AT 124 AM CDT...THUNDERSTORMS WERE LOCATED FROM NEAR DOWNTOWN CHICAGO EASTWARD ACROSS LAKE MICHIGAN. ALTHOUGH THE THUNDERSTORMS ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN BELOW SEVERE LIMITS...WIND GUSTS TO 30 KNOTS AND FREQUENT LIGHTNING WILL STILL OCCUR THROUGH 5 AM AS THE STORMS MOVE ACROSS THE LAKE.

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STEFKOVICH